

April 06, 2001

### Congressman Akin to Have Surgery

Full recovery expected due to early detection.

During a routine physical examination, blood tests indicated that Representative Todd Akin (R-Mo) has prostate cancer. Further tests revealed that it was caught in a very early stage.

Akin is scheduled to undergo surgery on April 13th. The date of the surgery will correspond with Congress' spring recess, which runs from April 7- April 23. Given the early detection, doctors have advised there is a high probability of full recovery after the surgery.

Prostate cancer is the most common form of cancer diagnosed in American men. According to the American Cancer Society (ACS) over 198,100 men will be diagnosed with prostate cancer this year alone. According to the ACS, early detection is key to successful treatment. Prostate cancer recovery is nearly 100% when detected early at a local or regional stage.

The American Cancer Society recommends that men over 50 years of age should receive an annual exam for the early detection of prostate cancer. Those at high risk should begin testing at 45 years of age.

"I am grateful that this was detected at a very early stage. Early detection is the key to successful treatment, and I would strongly encourage men to have annual exams," said Akin.